Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph starting at page 4, line 2 and ending at line 18 has been amended as follows.

~~An object of the~~ The present invention ~~is to~~ can conduct appropriate white balance processing without being adversely affected by a chromatic color even when an achromatic color such as gray or white does not exist in the screen. ~~In order to attain the above-mentioned object, according~~ According to an embodiment of the present invention, there is employed a construction in which an image pickup device includes: an image device; an instruction unit that instructs a given chromatic color area on a photography screen; and a white balance processing unit that specifies a color temperature of a light source on the basis of an output signal of the image device within the instructed area, and conducts white balance processing in accordance with a white balance coefficient that corresponds to the specified color temperature of the light source.

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 1 and ending at line 12 has been amended as follows.

In Step S102, a photographer changes the size of or moves a detection area (refer to Fig. 7) on a photography screen displayed on an electronic view finder (EVF) (not shown) through the operation using the instruction unit 7 so as to be identical with a skin color portion such as a face to be photographed. In this situation, the instruction unit 7 may apply a touch panel or a visual line input. Then, when the photographer turns on a calibration switch (not

shown), a color signal (an output signal from the image device) within the area is extracted in the WB circuit.

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 19 and ending at page 10, line 17 has been amended as follows.

Now, a judging method will be described. First, color evaluated values Cx and Cy of the skin color under the light sources including a high color temperature to a low color temperature are experimentally obtained in advance, and a skin color axis as a reference is determined. Then, the color evaluated value Cx corresponding to each of the color temperature light sources is written into a ROM (not shown). In addition, Cx and Cy of the skin color under various light sources such as a fluorescent light are measured, and a width is given the above-mentioned skin color axis so that the measured Cx and Cy are judged as the skin color. Then, the skin color axis having the width is determined as a skin color detection area to be judged as the skin color and written into the ROM. The skin color axis and the skin color detection area are shown in the color space of Fig. 4. Fig. 4 shows the color space in which the axis of abscissa is Cx = (R B)/Y and the axis of ordinate is Cy = (R + B 2)/Y as in Fig. 2. In this embodiment, a judgment is made in advance depending on whether the color evaluated values Cx and Cy obtained for each of the blocks enter the skin color detection area, or not. However, the color evaluated values Cx and Cy are calculated from the expression (1).

The paragraph starting at page 14, line 2 and ending at line 10 has been amended as follows. .

Furthermore, in addition to the weighting based on distribution of the number of blocks, the weighting based on brightness in the detection area ~~maybe~~ may be available[[,]]; for example, a ~~weighing~~ weighting ratio for integrating blocks having approximate daylight temperature is increased because the bright area has daylight color temperature[[,]]; in contrast, a weighting ratio for integrating blocks having low color temperature is decreased.

The paragraphs starting at page 16, line 3 and ending at page 17, line 5 have been amended as follows.

For example, in Step S101, the white balance processing can be achieved by selecting a skin color detection area from a plurality of areas in setting a mode to a skin color measure mode. Also, it is possible to set the skin color detection area on the basis of a language inputted from a microphone (not shown). Further, it is possible to select a chromatic color detection area (skin color detection area) in accordance with the selection of photography modes such as a portrait mode in which a person to be photographed is frequently located in the center of the screen, and a scenery mode in which a white color and a skin color are expected to be little.

Fig. 16 shows a user interface for a plurality types of skin color areas such as tanned skin color or white skin color, and Fig. 17 shows a flowchart of the process. Upon being changed into skin color measure mode (S301), a plurality of areas of possible skin color is detected from a color signal output from the image device (S302), and the detection areas are displayed on each

area which has been detected as skin color (S303). A user may move and designate one or more detection areas by instruction unit 7 from among a plurality of displayed detection areas (S304). The detection areas may be designated using a touch panel. And then, processes of steps S103-105 as shown in Fig. 6 ~~is~~ are similarly executed. In the case where each color of the designated detection areas is different from each other, average value (a color between plurality of skin colors) may be available.

The paragraph starting at page 22, line 5 and ending at line 23 has been amended as follows.

In addition, the calculated skin color axis is freely moved by the photographer, thereby making it possible to produce an image intended by the photographer. For example, if the complexion is intended to be better, it is sufficient to shift the calculated axis downward. As shown in Fig. 15, the upper side is magenta, the lower side is green, the left side is blue, and the right side is red with the skin color axis as a center. When the skin color axis is shifted downward, green is more corrected but magenta is not corrected with the result that the image is reddish. Also, if the complexion is intended to be more ~~whity~~ white, it is sufficient to shift the skin color axis rightward. With this operation, red is more corrected but blue is not corrected,. On the UI, the degree to which the complexion is made alive and the degree to which the complexion is made ~~white~~ white are variable by a knob, and the skin color axis is made to correspond to the amount of shift.